



Governors' Weekly Bulletin

28 January 2020

The Leicestershire Virtual School Conference 2020

The conference is on 27th FEBRUARY 2020 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at King Power Stadium, Filbert Way, Leicester LE2 7FL

About the conference:

The new Ofsted framework focuses on the extent to which school "leaders' and managers' high ambitions" include "all pupils, including those who are harder to reach". This conference will look at how your school's vision, ethos and strategic direction can provide the key to "high-quality education for all pupils".

You will hear how your policy impacts on the everyday experience of vulnerable children, especially looked after and previously looked after children and some examples of how changes in practice can lead to fewer exclusions and greater engagement in education from your pupils.

Target audience:

The conference is aimed at head teachers and other primary and secondary senior leaders; governors; designated teachers for looked after children and other stakeholders with an interest in the education of vulnerable children.

Governors should talk to their school's SLT in order to arrange to attend together and take advantage of the reduced rate for second and subsequent members of the same school (£75.00 first, £55.00 second and subsequent). We have more details of the afternoon session which will feature the 'voice' of young people and their experiences of inclusive practice at school, reflecting on how ethos impacts on pupils' mental health and emotional well-being.

Bookings can be made via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/leicestershire-virtual-school-annual-conference-2020-tickets-77835436887?aff=ebdssbdestsearch> or schools can request to be invoiced direct if preferred, just contact Tony Barnard tony.barnard@leics.gov.uk or Nitin Morjaria Nitin.Morjaria@leics.gov.uk telephone 0116 305 6434 for the same price: £75 and £55.

Further details about the conference are on the attached flyer.

SEND Newsletter

Please find attached the latest SEND newsletter

Induction Training for new academy governors

Due to demand an additional induction course for new academy governors has been arranged. This will be on **Saturday 21 March 2020 from 9.30am – 4.00pm at County Scout HQ, 9 Oak Spinney Park, Ratby Lane, Leicester Forest East, LE3 3AW**

Click on the link below for more information

<http://www.leicestershiretradedservices.org.uk/Event/111175>

Bookings can be made website: <http://www.leicestershiretradedservices.org.uk> by email governors@leics.gov.uk or telephone 0116 305 6503. This course is free to academies that subscribe to GDS

Apply to be an Independent School Appeal Panel Member for Leicestershire County Council

What will I be doing?

Sitting on independent admission appeal panels to consider appeals by parents/carers who have been refused a place for their child at their preferred school.

Considering information provided by the Admission Authority about why a school place has been refused.

Ensuring that parents/carers feel they have had a fair and independent hearing and have been given every opportunity to present their case.

Carefully balancing the arguments with advice from a qualified legal advisor to make a decision on the appeal.

To find out more see the attached flyer.

The Annual Bullying Survey 2019

This year, we are celebrating our seventh annual edition of this crucial body of evidence; documenting the true extent and nature of bullying behaviours from the real and often unheard voices of the young people who experience it. Our research continues to influence policy and innovation within the anti-bullying sector; whilst empowering educators and various other stakeholders to make more informed decisions in the prevention of bullying.

To read more click [here](#).

Writing the date in 2020

Typically when writing the short date, we write dd/mm/yy, but this year could cause a problem. Only writing the year as '20' leaves a potential for fraud because there is space where other digits could be added on. For example, 12/01/20 could have '18' added on, so that it reads 12/01/2018.

Throughout this year, to minimise the risk of fraud, it will be best to use the full year date in any hand-written reports or when signing and dating documents.

Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day is designed to empower young people to take control of their digital lives. For 2020 we are putting the focus on online identity and asking young people to consider whether they and their peers are truly free to be themselves online.

For more information and to access a range of free resources, including films, lesson plans, assemblies and more please click [here](#).

Compare how much your school is spending on agency supply teachers

Schools using our [supply teachers and agency workers deal](#) are achieving substantial savings. Using this deal your school can avoid costly temp-to-perm fees, as agencies cannot apply fees for making temporary staff permanent after 12 weeks of working for you (must give 4 weeks' notice).

You can use the department's [financial benchmarking service](#) to help you compare how much your school is spending on agency supply staff compared with similar schools

GIAS (Get Information About Schools)

Keep your details on GIAS (Get Information About Schools) up to date to receive governance update email alerts direct

We are keen to continue to increase the reach of this update. If you would like to receive a direct email alert when the updates are published, please ask your school's 'DfE sign-in approver' to add your contact details onto ['Get Information About Schools' website](#). As a reminder, it is a requirement that all chair of governors' email details are on GIAS, as well as the correct start and end of term of office dates for all governor posts. You can read [further information on GIAS](#). If you are a clerk, or otherwise unable to upload your details to GIAS, please email schoolgovernance.update@education.gov.uk and we will add you to the circulation list manually

Multi-million-pound culture boost for children in schools

£80 million for music hubs coupled with further investment in film, dance, theatre and design.

Thousands more children will be able to learn instruments and play in orchestras or choirs thanks to a further £80million investment by the Government in music hubs.

Alongside this investment, charities that help young people learn about different styles of music are also set to receive a further £1 million next year to support the next generation of musicians.

To read more please click [here](#).

Sport England

Welcome to the first Active Lives Children and Young People Survey report summarising the activity levels of children and young people (aged 5-16) in England from September 2017 to July 2018.

Given that attitudes towards sport and physical activity are often shaped by experiences in childhood, we have sought to explore and better understand not only the behaviours of children and young people, but also their attitudes towards sport and physical activity, and the extent to which being active links to levels of mental wellbeing, individual development and social and community development.

To read more click [here](#)

Pre-teen girls 'tricked into sex acts on webcams'

Girls aged between 11 and 13 are increasingly being tricked and coerced into performing sexually over their own webcams, data suggests.

The Internet Watch Foundation said 80% of the sexual selfies it found in its relentless trawl for images of child sexual abuse were of children this age.

The charity took action on 37,000 self-generated images of children last year. About 30,000 were of adolescents. Its chief executive said the number of cases was growing at an alarming rate.

To read more please click [here](#).

Character education framework

Click [here](#) to see non-statutory guidance to schools on character education and development for pupils.

This guidance is for school leaders and teachers considering the rationale for character education and personal development, and the practicalities of provision and delivery.

The guidance will support schools as they consider:

the 2019 Ofsted inspection framework

the social, moral, cultural and spiritual development of pupils

preparations for the introduction of 'Relationships education' and 'Health education' in primary schools, and 'Relationships, sex and health education' in secondary schools

The guidance provides schools with 6 benchmarking questions to support reflection and the self-evaluation of current provision.

Schools encouraged to open up sports facilities all year round

Thousands of children will benefit from more sports activities after school and in the school holidays through a £1.6 million funding boost to help schools make better use of their facilities.

As part of a national drive to encourage 60 minutes of physical activity per day across the week, the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson has announced total funding worth £2.4 million for better sports activities and teaching, including for schools in 19 areas across England to collaborate with sports organisations to increase the opportunities to use school sports facilities outside the school day.

The Active Partnership Network, supported by Sport England, will set up partnerships between schools and local sport providers, encouraging them to open up their sport facilities for fun and engaging sporting competitions, after school clubs and holiday activities.

To read more please click [here](#).

ESFA Update academies: 22 January 2020

Click [here](#) to read the latest ESFA Update for academies

Chief Inspector warns against pursuing success without substance

This year's annual report finds the overall quality of education and care in England is good and improving, but chief inspector warns against complacency.

Launching her third Annual Report as Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, Amanda Spielman said today that the great majority of schools, colleges, nurseries and child minders in England are good or outstanding, reflecting the hard work of teachers, leaders and support staff who work there.

86% of schools are judged to be good or outstanding
96% of early years (EY) providers are good or outstanding

81% of inspected further education and skills (FES) providers are good or outstanding

To read more please click [here](#).

Childline - not just a phone call

The Childline website has lots of valuable information, but one area I like is their Calm Zone. The activities aim to help children feel better when they're feeling anxious, scared or sad. Although children could be encouraged to visit the website themselves, these are good techniques for adults use with children. Ideas include: breathing exercises, a 'let it go' box and creating a 'sense drawer'.

Go to the Childline website here: <https://www.childline.org.uk/toolbox/calm-zone/>

Amanda on SEN

Ofsted: leadership failure undermining SEND support. Failures in leadership in too many areas is resulting in inadequate support for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Ofsted has found. In Ofsted chief inspector Amanda Spielman's annual report, published today, the regulator said it identified weaknesses in joint commissioning for SEND.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/oct/31/ofsted-chief-criticises-scandal-schools-stuck-in-rut-of-failure>

Fight or flight? How 'stuck' schools are overcoming isolation

This evaluation report investigates why some schools that have previously delivered a low standard of education for long periods of time have managed to sustainably improve and others have not. The report finds that we need a system of deeper inspection and better support to improve education for children in these schools.

To read more please click [here](#).

Statutory policies for schools and academy trusts

The above document produced by the DfE has been updated. To access the document please click [here](#).

The changes are given below

Change made

Add link in section 8 'Relationship and sex education' to statutory guidance published in June which schools must follow from September 2020. Added references to specify if policies also apply to maintained or non-maintained nursery schools. Updated 'Register of business interests of headteachers and governors' section to reference that it is a live document. Updated 'Capability of staff' section to reflect that academies can set their own terms for approval.

Early years foundation stage profile results: 2018 to 2019

Early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) results for the 2018 to 2019 academic year, at national and local authority level.

This publication covers the:

- percentage of children achieving each assessment rating in the early learning goals
- percentage of children achieving at least the expected level in the prime areas of learning and in the specific areas of literacy and mathematics (a good level of development)
- average total points score across all the early learning goals (the supporting measure)
- percentage of children achieving at least the expected level within the communication and language, and literacy areas of learning

The additional tables have been published as underlying data. Use the metadata file to help understand how to use the files. We have also published an Excel table 'Table 1: Achievement in early years foundation stage profile (EYFSP) teacher assessments by pupil characteristics'.

To read more please click [here](#).
